AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 4, through line 13 as indicated below:

~~As shown in Fig. 1A, in accordance with this embodiment, the pumping light 8 is incident upon the solid-state laser medium 2 via each of side surfaces of the solid state laser medium 2 which are parallel to an xy plane.~~ As shown in Fig. 1A, in accordance with this embodiment, the pumping light 8 is incident upon the solid state laser medium 2 via each of side surfaces of the solid state laser medium 2 which are parallel to a yz plane. Since the solid-state-laser pumping module is thus constructed, the length of absorption of the pumping light 8 can be adjusted according to the size a of the solid state laser medium in the direction of the x-axis, and all the power stored in the solid state laser medium 2 can be adjusted according to the size b of the solid state laser medium in the direction of the y-axis.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 22, through page 33, line 3 as indicated below:

~~Fig. 1 shows the example in which the pumping light 8 is incident upon the solid state laser medium 2 via the side surfaces of the solid state laser medium 2 which are parallel to an xy plane.~~ Fig. 1 shows the example in which the pumping light 8 is incident upon the solid state laser medium 2 via the side surfaces of the solid state laser medium 2 which are parallel to a yz plane. As an alternative, the pumping light 8 can be incident upon the solid state laser medium 2 via other side surfaces of the solid state laser medium 2 which are parallel to an xz plane. In this

case, since a longer length of absorption of the pumping light is obtained with respect to the direction of the y-axis of the solid state laser medium 2, a high degree of absorption efficiency is acquired even if a laser medium material of small absorption of the pumping light is used.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 8, through line 19 as indicated below:

~~A total reflection mirror for reflecting the laser light 6 and a partial reflection mirror for reflecting a part of the laser light 6, and for allowing a remaining part of the laser light to pass therethrough, which are not shown, are prepared, and either the total reflection mirror or the partial reflection mirror is disposed on the optical axis of the laser light 6 which has not yet been incident upon the first solid state laser pumping module unit 12a and either the partial reflection mirror or the total reflection mirror is disposed on the optical axis of the laser light 6 which has passed through the first solid state laser pumping module unit 12b and emerges from the first solid state laser pumping module unit.~~ A total reflection mirror for reflecting the laser light 6 and a partial reflection mirror for reflecting a part of the laser light 6, and for allowing a remaining part of the laser light to pass therethrough, which are not shown, are prepared, and either the total reflection mirror or the partial reflection mirror is disposed on the optical axis of the laser light 6 which has not yet been incident upon the first solid-state-laser pumping module unit 12a and either the partial reflection mirror or the total reflection mirror is disposed on the optical axis of the laser light 6 which has passed through the second solid state laser pumping module unit 12b and emerges from the second solid-state-laser pumping module unit.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 11, through line 14 as indicated below:

~~In addition, as shown in Fig. 5A, also in accordance with this embodiment, the pumping light 8 is incident upon the solid state laser medium 2 via each of side surfaces of the solid state laser medium 2 which are parallel to an xy plane.~~ In addition, as shown in Fig. 5A, also in accordance with this embodiment, the pumping light 8 is incident upon the solid state laser medium 2 via each of side surfaces of the solid state laser medium 2 which are parallel to a yz plane.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 9, through line 15 as indicated below:

~~In other words, such a process is performed repeatedly in such a manner that the polarization of the laser light 6 which is amplified by the solid state laser medium 2 is rotated by k polarization rotators 13 arranged on the optical path of the reflected laser light 6 by 90 degrees every time the laser light is reflected by the total reflection coating 3 for the (2k-1)-*th* time.~~ In other words, such a process is performed repeatedly in such a manner that the polarization of the laser light 6 which is amplified by the solid state laser medium 2 is rotated by the i-*th* (i = 1 to k) polarization rotator 13 arranged on the optical path of the reflected laser light 6 by 90 degrees every time the laser light is reflected by the total reflection coating 3 for the (2i-1)-*th* time (i = 1 to k).

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 22, through page 61, line 8 as indicated below:

Figs. 8C and 8D show other examples of the pumping medium member 15 in which a plurality of solid state laser media 2 are aligned in the direction of the y-axis, and a slab waveguide 11C or 11D is disposed so as to cover all side surfaces of each of the plurality of solid state laser media which are perpendicular to the direction of the x-axis or y-axis. ~~The slab waveguide 11C of the pumping medium member 15 shown in Fig. 8C is so formed that two side surfaces thereof which are perpendicular to the direction of the x-axis are tapered such that the width of each of the two side surfaces is linearly reduced with distance from each of both ends thereof toward a center thereof. The slab waveguide 11C of the pumping medium member 15 shown in Fig. 8D is so formed that two side surfaces thereof which are perpendicular to the direction of the x-axis are tapered such that the width of each of the two side surfaces is reduced in a smooth curve with distance from each of both ends thereof toward a center thereof.~~ The slab waveguide 11C of the pumping medium member 15 shown in Fig. 8C is so formed that two side surfaces thereof which are perpendicular to the direction of the z-axis are tapered such that the width of each of the two side surfaces is linearly reduced with distance from each of both ends thereof toward a center thereof. The slab waveguide 11C of the pumping medium member 15 shown in Fig. 8D is so formed that two side surfaces thereof which are perpendicular to the direction of the z-axis are tapered such that the width of each of the two side surfaces is reduced in a smooth curve with distance from each of both ends thereof toward a center thereof.

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 16, through line 22 as indicated below:

~~In the structure shown in Fig. 8F, the number of solid state laser media 2 which are arranged in the direction of the x-axis and in the central portion of the pumping medium member 15 is less than the number of solid state laser media 2 which are arranged along each of both side surfaces of the slab waveguide 11E or 11F which are perpendicular to the direction of the x-axis.~~ In the structure shown in Fig. 8F, the number of solid state laser media 2 which are arranged in the direction of the x-axis and in the central portion of the pumping medium member 15 is less than the number of solid state laser media 2 which are arranged along each of both side surfaces of the slab waveguide 11F which are perpendicular to the direction of the y-axis.